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# Message Text

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55
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-07 SS-15 INR-07 /052 W
---------- 102533
R 131650Z SEP 76
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1761
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ENRG, LE
SUBJECT: OIL COMPANY OPERATIONS IN LEBANON

REF: (A) STATE 216373, (B) BEIRUT 7250, (C) BEIRUT 7209

1. GOL MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND PETROLEUM, GHASSAN TUEINI, TELEPHONED CHARGE SEPT 10 TO ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF LETTER FROM CALTEX WHICH WAS FORWARDED TO HIM AS INSTRUCTED REF A. TUEINI MADE NO COMMENT ON SUBSTANCE OF LETTER.

2. IN CONVERSATION ON RECENT OIL COMPANY ACTIONS IN LEBANON, TUEINI SAID HE WAS DISTURBED BY LONG TELEGRAM FROM MOBIL (PARA 10, REF B) REFUSING TO COOPERATE IN TUEINI'S EFFORTS TO KEEP OIL COMPANIES IN OPERATION DURING CURRENT CRISIS. TUEINI SAID HE RECOGNIZED DIFFICULTIES MOBIL AND ESSO HAD FACED, BUT THEIR ACTIONS HAD PARTICULARLY UNFORTUNATE EFFECT, BOTH ECONOMICALLY AND PSYCHOLOGICALLY, AT A TIME WHEN OTHERS WERE MAKING MAJOR EFFORT TO HOLD THINGS TOGETHER UNTIL PRESIDENT SARKIS WAS INAUGURATED ON SEPT 23. TUEINI SPECIFICALLY PRAISED SHELL'S ATTITUDE. HE STRESSED THAT HIS ACTION (PARA 11, REF B) WAS "CONSERVATORY" IN LEBANESE LAW, AND WAS NOT DESIGNED TO NATIONALIZE THE COMPANIES. LEBANON, HE SAID, WAS DETERMINED TO MAINTAIN A LIBERAL ECONOMIC SYSTEM, AND MOBIL AND ESSO WOULD BE WELCOME TO RESUME
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OPERATIONS WHENEVER THEY WISHED.

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LANE

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NNN

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# Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994
**Channel Indicators:** n/a
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED
**Concepts:** TEXT, PETROLEUM INDUSTRY, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS
**Control Number:** n/a
**Copy:** SINGLE
**Draft Date:** 13 SEP 1976
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960
**Decaption Note:**
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED
**Disposition Approved on Date:**
**Disposition Authority:** coburnhl
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004
**Disposition Event:**
**Disposition History:** n/a
**Disposition Reason:**
**Disposition Remarks:**
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**Document Unique ID:** 00
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**Film Number:** D760346-0675
**From:** BEIRUT
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a
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**ISecure:** 1
**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t19760968/aaaacggr.tel
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**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
**Office:** ACTION NEA
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**Secure:** OPEN
**Status:** NATIVE
**Subject:** OIL COMPANY OPERATIONS IN LEBANON
**TAGS:** ENRG, LE, (TUEINI, GHASSAN)
**To:** STATE
**Type:** TE
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